

Exceptional regulations for summer 19/20: Master of Research (MRes) and Professional Doctorates with a built-in teaching stage.

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the University recognises that students enrolled on Master of Research (MRes) or Professional Doctorate programmes may not be able to complete project/dissertation research work that was scheduled to take place during the summer of 2020. These regulations should be read in conjunction with all existing regulations, as well as the Exceptional Regulations on Extenuating Circumstances (ECs). These regulations apply to those students who are attempting to undertake planned project/dissertation work during the period between March and September 2020. We will keep these regulations under review and may extend the period further.

MRPD1. Where Schools judge that students studying for a Professional Doctorate or an MRes will not be able to complete their planned project/dissertation research work, appropriate substitute research/scholarly activity may be offered in its place for assessment in the thesis. Schools should ensure that the substitute research/scholarly activity allows students to satisfy the learning outcomes of the programme.

MRPD2. In making this decision, Schools should review the curriculum map for the programme and add an addendum which demonstrates that programme level learning outcomes have been mapped and are covered by the set of assessments (already held or newly developed) appropriate to the point of the programme that the students have reached. This should be reported at any relevant exam board or external examiner report form.

MRPD3. Where such an alternative research/scholarly activity cannot be provided Schools should offer students alternative routes to complete the research element and thesis within the period of registration, including interruption of studies, with a first sit/thesis examination at the first available opportunity after the research work is complete

MRPD4. It is recognised that those courses with Professional Statutory Regulatory Bodies (PSRB) requirements may need to make more stringent arrangements, first receiving guidance from the relevant Board. PSRB requirements will, in all cases, be in addition to the regulations laid out here. Schools under a PSRB should apply the regulations above unless they are in tension with PSRB requirements.

MRPD5. When implementing these changes to assessment, there is no requirement to gain the approval of Quality and Standards Committee (QSC).

MRPD6. Where possible, Schools are asked to notify External Examiners when making these decisions and must note changes to assessment at the relevant exam boards.